

At Home, March 15th '57

Dear Friend:

I have just scribbled off a communication for the Statesman. I think its publication about this time would be productive of good results. But of this you will judge. I am more and more delighted with the course of the Statesman. I read each succeeding issue with great avidity. You may always rely upon the support of the sterling democracy of Democratic Linn.

Nearly all the democrats with whom I have conversed since I came home express a desire for my nomination as a candidate for delegate to Congress. But I have at no time spoken of myself as a candidate, but have, on the contrary, uniformly expressed the opinion that Gen. Lane would be renominated. Many, however, receive with disfavor the idea of a fourth nomination. Jo. Watt, of Yamhill, was in our county a day or two since electioneering against Lane. I did not see him, but have been told that he said he would not vote for Lane even if he received the nomination, but that he would vote for me, if nominated, &c. I have also been told that the Avery faction have runners out electioneering for Kelley.

I have generally recommended our friends to select good, sound, reliable men to represent them in the Convention, and send them without instructions.

I received a long letter, some time since from our mutual friend Dr. Henry. He was deprecating and bemoaning the policy of attacking the Shucks and Lelands. I answered him!

You will perceive that my communication is signed "Jefferson," and dated at "Central P.O." That office is distant from me only two miles further than Albany. Personally I would not care who knew I wrote it. But it is doubtless better that it should appear as written. The curious may suspect the democratic post master over on the Santiam, if they choose to!

I regained my health- got rid of my cough- in about one week after reaching home. I was obliged to tarry two days at Couser's on the north side of the Santiam, before I could cross that stream. I am now well over it, and as good as new.

Tell Drew that his little horse is all sound and safe. I think I shall ride him down to Salem court week.

I received my cloak, carpet bag &c, about one month after leaving Salem. Thanks.

What a contemptible dog that Leland is. He is a living, locomotive lie. He lied more and more, worse and worse. I see that he is easing up on me and turning his foul, pop-gun batteries on to Judge Williams. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad!" The truth of this axiom will be fully verified in Leland's case. I perceive that he has, at last, got into an open war with

at least a portion of the democracy of his own county. This is as it should be. He is now quite dead abroad. It only remains that his neighbors give him a finishing stroke, and bury the corpse.

Write me and let me know your present opinion relative to the nomination. Are there any new developments? Do your advices satisfy you that Lane will be nominated without difficulty or effort? Do Kelley's prospects brighten any?

Kelley, of Corvallis, must be insane. Delegate to Congress! Bah!

As to the statements contained in "Jefferson's" communication, made on the authority of a member of the Legislature of 1855-6, I would be sworn to their truth. Avery's threats were made to me.

I have a mind to be a delegate-if I can, and of that I have no doubt- to the Territorial convention. What think you?

I will be down the first week of Court- the week preceding the convention.

Please write me at your convenience. Kind regards to friends.

Truly your friend,
Delazon Smith

A. Bush, Esq.
Salem, O.T

P.S. I have received a long letter from Gen. Lane, in which he says he would heartily support me or "any other good democrat" for Congress, if nominated. He adds, "let us leave it (the nomination) to the people". Of course we will!

Yours,
D.S.

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Tell Brent that his little horse is all sound and safe. I think I shall ride him down to Salem court week.

I received my clock, Carpet, &c, about one month after leaving Salem. Thanks.

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abroad. It only remains that his neighbors give him a finishing stroke, and bury the corpse.

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Kelley, of Cornell's, must be inclined. Delegate to Congress! Ah!

As to the statements contained in Jefferson's communication, made on the authority of a member of the Legislature of 1855-6, I would be sworn to their truth. Henry's threats were made to me.

I have a mind to be a delegate if I can, but of that I have no doubt to the Pro-retail Convention. What think you?

I will be down the first week of court - the week preceding the Convention.

Please write me at your convenience. Kind regards to friends.

Truly your friend,

A. Bush, Esq. } Delazon Smith
Salem, Vt. }

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Yours, &c.

P.S.S. (As many post scripts as a woman needs here)

Widdowson promised me a year ago to send me some plane trees. He failed to do it. This past winter he swore he would send them without fail. As yet they have not come to hand. When you see him, please tell him for me that if he does not send them soon he must no more be called Widdowson but simply Wid, which shall be understood to mean one who promises to send plane trees to a friend and does not redeem his promise! I can not have the name of Smith trifled with, but I hope better things of Hester Widdowson though I thus speak. This, I think, will do for the 2^d post script.

Yours, S.S.

P.P.S.S.S. I open this letter to say that

I have just rec^d. a letter from Gen. Widdowson informing me that the plane trees are on the way. God bless him. He may continue to be called Widdowson.

Leland is an ex Schoolmaster truly! Wide Mr Allen's letter!

As ever yours
S.S.